

## House Republican Press Release

June 27, 2005  
Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Dems Deny Senior Exemption on Conveyance Tax**



#### *Bi-Partisan Measure Rejected by Partisan Majority*

HARTFORD- State Representative Sean Williams (R-Watertown) today expressed disappointment at the Democratic legislative majority for their failure to spare seniors from their recent increase in the real estate conveyance tax. The tax bill, which was passed in the final days of the legislative session, extends the current 0.25% municipal real estate conveyance tax rate for two years, until July 1, 2007. The rate had been scheduled to drop to 0.11% on July 1, 2005.

Representative Williams co-sponsored an amendment to the conveyance bill along with nine Democrats and eight other Republicans, which would have simply enabled towns and cities to enact such an exemption for senior citizens. Supporters argued in favor of letting locally elected officials make the choice of whether to enact the senior citizens' exemption. Opponents argued that municipalities need the revenue and the decision should not be made locally. The amendment was narrowly defeated by a vote of 77-69 with only 18 Democrats voting in favor of it.

"I think this kind of vote rather clearly demonstrates where the majority in the legislature are," said Representative Williams. "This is the party that consistently pronounces themselves on the side of working class families, and seniors, but when it comes time to give those folks a break from their massive and steady tax increases, they couldn't be less interested."

The conveyance measure was passed by the Senate on June 8<sup>th</sup>, and became Public Act 05-268.